

Mammography Saves Lives



1 in 8 women will get breast cancer — the most common cancer in women.

40,000 women die from breast cancer each year.

75% of women who get breast cancer are of "average risk" — with no family history of the disease or other high risk factors.

1 in 6 breast cancers are found in women ages 40–49.

The most lives are saved from breast cancer when women get screened every year, starting at age 40.

Starting yearly mammograms at age 40 has helped cut breast cancer deaths by more than 40 percent.

- Mammograms can find tumors too small to be felt.
- Small cancers are easier and less costly to treat, and have a better chance for cure.



All women should have a risk assessment by age 30 to see if they are at increased risk — particularly black and Jewish women.

- Just being a woman makes you at “average risk” for breast cancer. That risk increases with age.
- Some women are at higher risk — including those with a family history of breast cancer or a known genetic mutation.
- These women may benefit from additional screening or other preventive measures.

Mammograms cannot detect all cancers and can detect tissue that may look like cancer but is not.

- About 10 percent of women who get a screening mammogram will need additional imaging, usually just another mammogram or an ultrasound. One to two percent will need a needle biopsy.
- These issues can cause anxiety, but must be weighed against the potential benefits of early detection of breast cancer.
- Early detection decreases breast cancer deaths and can minimize treatment needed to cure.



For more information, visit
MammographySavesLives.org.